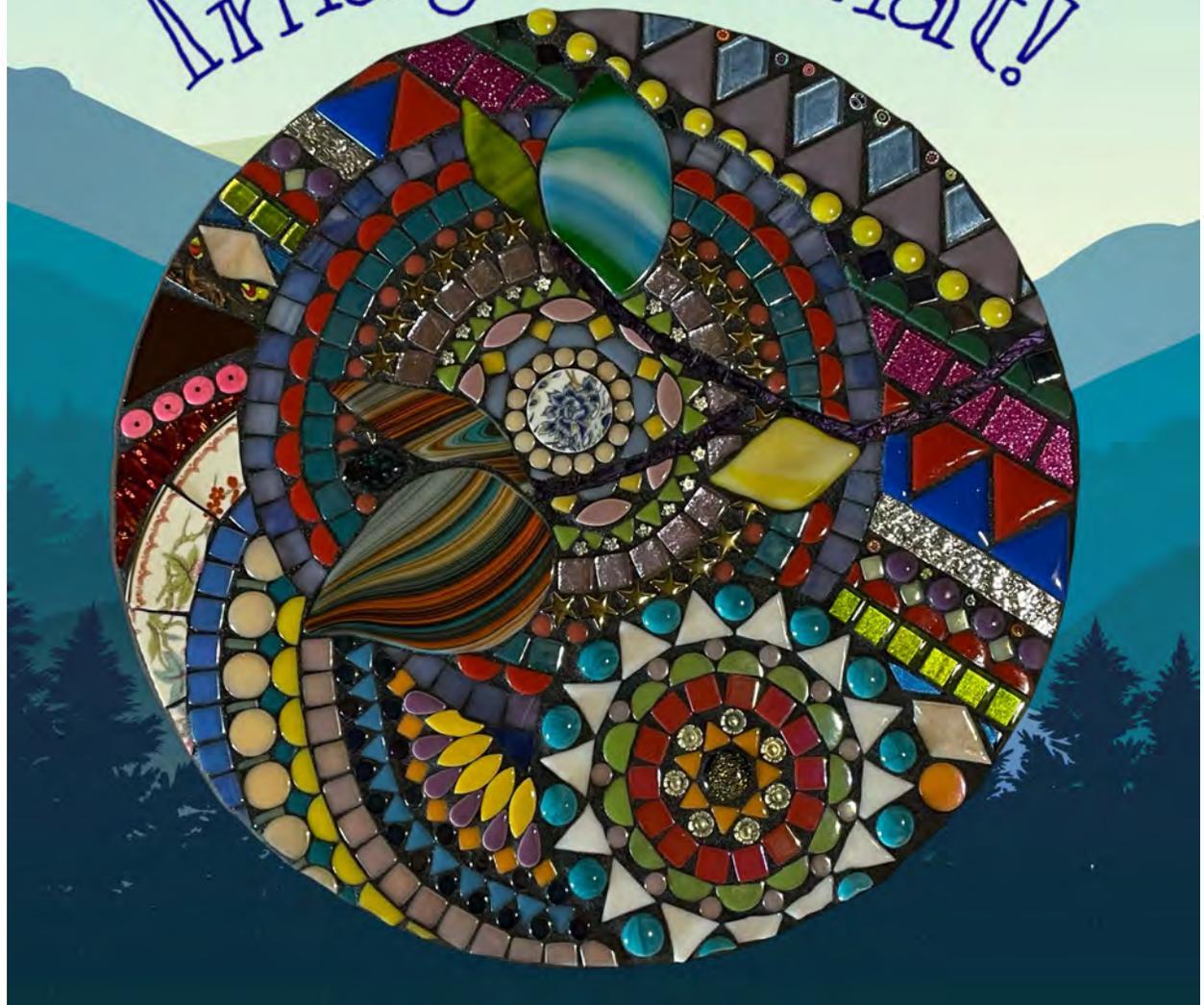


Imagine That!



Imagine That!

A public art proposal

by

Reham Aarti

for

The McCall Public

Library

Vision:

Imagination is the portal through which stories come to life. Imagination lets us take what we know and create something magical and new from it. Authors use imagination to bring their ideas to life. Their tales are encoded on the page, waiting patiently for a reader to decode them. Readers' imaginations bring the tales back to life, weaving in bits and pieces of their own world as they go. The people that they know and places that they've seen serve as a reference point: a meeting place where the imaginations of the author and the reader collide.

My imagination collides with J.R.R. Tolkien's when I pass the hills near Horseshoe Bend with its rocks and scrubby trees, and I am transported to Middle Earth. I imagine hobbits and wizards setting off on grand adventures. In those same hills, I sometimes think that the unicorns and jackalopes that I've read tales of are grazing in the tall grass. I've spotted horses and hares out there, so why not?

My design uses swirling mosaics to depict "Imagination Portals" that draw characters and icons from our favorite stories directly into McCall. Little Red Riding Hood travels through a portal to share a chair lift with the Big Bad Wolf at Brundage. A portal has opened near the Rainbow Bridge, and we see that a vintage hot air balloon has traveled through it to take in a signature pink McCall sunset. Did it come from Oz, or has it just completed a daring 80 day circumnavigation of the earth? And, are those jolly pirates that I see joining the rafters on the Payette River? What an adventure that would be!

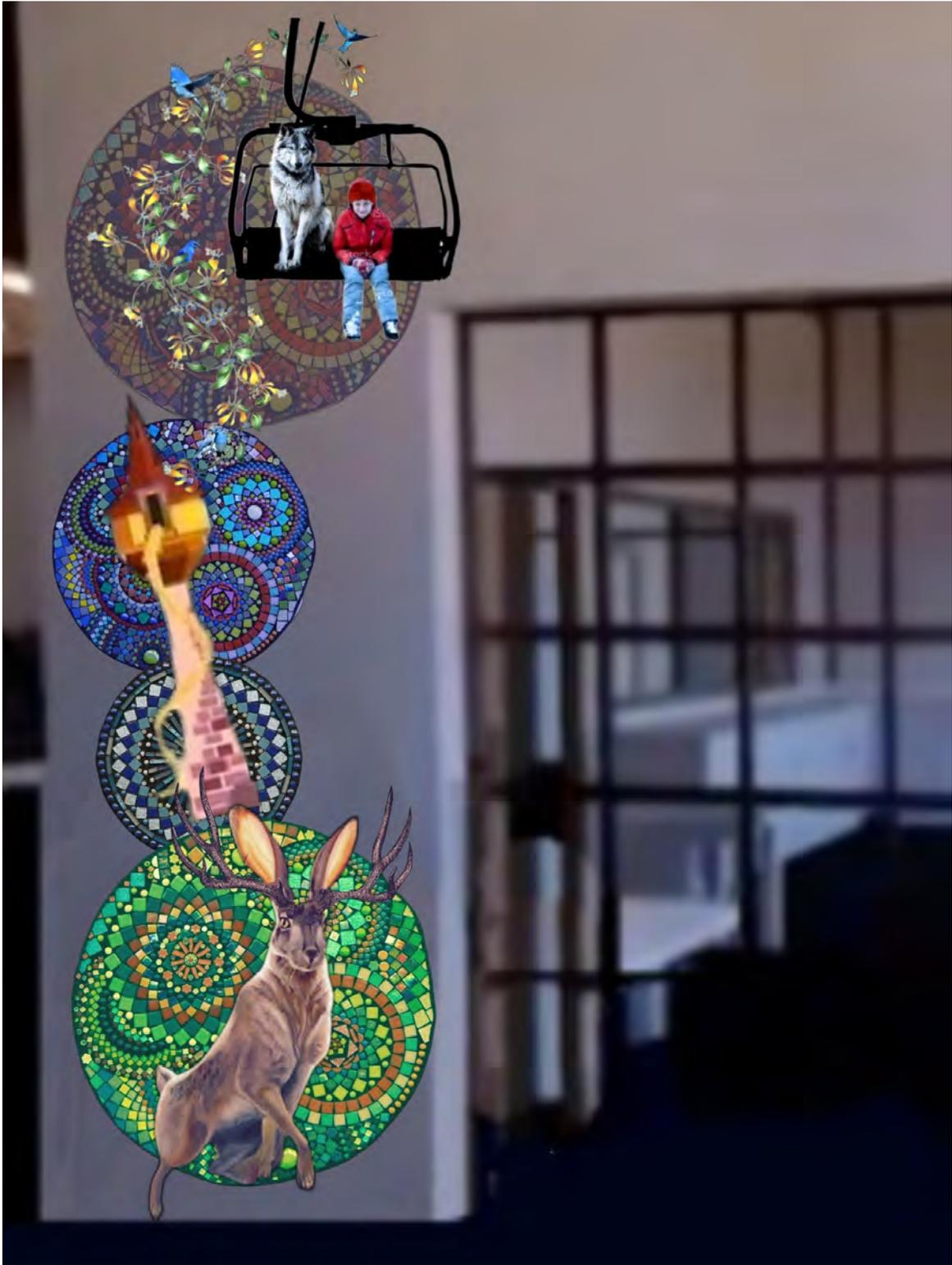
On another wall, an Imagination Portal has opened up to welcome a cast of characters into the library to enjoy its many offerings. Thing 1 and Thing 2 are trying out some VR headsets, tech gnomes connect to the wifi on their computer, and storybook favorites like Mary Poppins and Harold (with his purple crayon in hand) have come to the library to join their friends Curious George and that very determined bus-driving pigeon. The community built around the McCall library, along with its Idaho mountain bluebirds and honeysuckle, have drawn them all here to learn and play together.

Every day is magical when you have books to bring a little character and adventure into the world that you know and love. I look forward to working in collaboration with this community to choose who to invite through my mosaic Imagination Portals and into the McCall Library (pending copyright approval).

~Please take into consideration that this is a concept proposal, locations, colors, and details are by no means set in stone. I enjoy incorporating feedback before finalizing all my work, and feel that it always enhances the final piece.









Application:

As the building is currently under construction, I've chosen locations based on the best available interior images, rather than a fully informed opinion. I'd also like to leave room for stakeholder input. However, construction of the murals will remain the same.

I'm proposing 3 murals, or roughly 200 square feet of mosaic, to be created on Schluter Kerdi-Board, a multifunctional tile substrate/building panel, using a builders silicone adhesive, and grouted with an industrial epoxy grout. For the mosaic images, I'll be using custom kilned glass, multiple types of glass and ceramic tile, china, glass baubles, and mixed media mosaic materials. Because 2 of the murals will be within touching range (which I encourage!) I will ensure that all edges will be completely smooth to the touch, any potential snags will be ground down by hand.

I will create the mosaic in multiple pieces for ease of transport, and install them directly onto their final locations. I'll attach the panels with Latacrete industrial platinum 254 thinset, much like applying tile directly to the wall, permanently securing them in place. Because the mosaics will be pre-built and grouted, installation will require only attaching and seaming the mosaic. All three mosaic murals will be attached to the walls after construction, directly onto the drywall.

The tree mural would be approximately 13 feet tall x 10 feet wide
The rainbow bridge mural approximately 3 feet tall x 7 feet wide
The jackalope mural approximately 12 feet tall x 4 feet wide

Maintenance:

Dusting/wiping down the mosaics as needed.

Budget:

Materials

kerdi board	\$1,500
epoxy grout	\$2,000
builders adhesive	\$2,000
platinum 254 thinset	\$300
mosaic materials	\$16,000

Studio fees

(tools/kilns...etc)	\$2,000
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Travel

\$660

Engineering

\$300

Artists fees (900+ hours)

\$40,000

Installation

(help/scaffolding ...etc)	\$3,500
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Incidentals

\$1,740

Total budget

\$70,000



Woodland Library

A public art proposal

by

Reham Aarti

for

The McCall Public

Library

Vision:

In keeping with the Library Stakeholders vision of celebrating the grandeur of nature in McCall by bringing the outside in, I've designed a "Woodland Library" that highlights the native trees of the area.

This would be a collection of books made of wood and tethered to their custom built-in shelves with coated cable. Each book in the Woodland Library will depict a single tree. There will be an inlay on one side that will be a piece of wood from that tree with the name of the tree carved into it. On the other side there will be a mosaic of the leaves or needles of the tree along with any distinguishing flowers or seeds (acorns, pinecones, et cetera). Making each tree a tangible and individual piece of art, and reinforcing the importance and beauty of Idaho's forests.

Hardwoods found in Idaho are aspen; American dwarf birch, river birch, paper birch, Pacific Dogwood, bigtooth maple, grey, white and green alder, narrowleaf and black cottonwood, and white poplar. Idaho is also home to many conifers, including ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir (white), western red cedar, lodgepole pine, western white pine, subalpine fir, whitebark pine, Englemann spruce, western hemlock, mountain hemlock, western larch (tamarack), alpine larch, pacific yew, juniper, and pinyon. This gives us a 28 books.

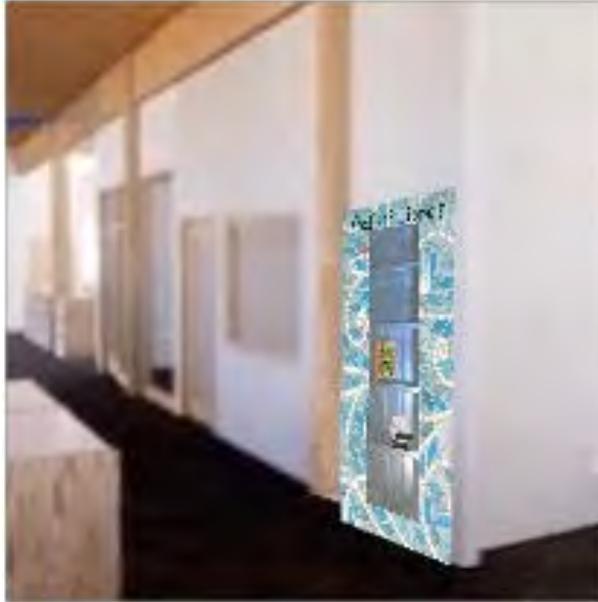
The frame around the built in shelving unit will also be done in mosaic, with nature designs and the words "Woodland Library" at the top, integrating the whole piece permanently into the library.

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Woodland Library





Application:

The books:

Each book will be individually made of hardwood, with routed out space for the inlay on the inside cover with the name of the tree, and the mosaic on the right. The wire wrapped cable will be attached on a swivel hook through the spine. The cable will be connected to the built in shelving unit. The books will all be high sanded. The spines will also have small mosaic details mimicking the old book style.

The mosaics will be made of glass, and grouted in industrial epoxy for durability.

The shelf:

A custom built shelving unit, created to slip between the studs in the wall of its selected location, requiring minimal space cut in the drywall. The unit will have a built in frame that will be mosaiced with the words "Woodland Library" at the top and design down the sides, the inside painted, and shelves padded to prolong and protect the edges of the books.

The final size and technical specifications of the shelves will be determined by the builders requirements (considering wall thickness and location... etc)

Maintenance:

dust/wipe down as needed. Periodic check of cables to ensure the books stay secured.

Budget:

Materials

epoxy grout	\$1,000
builders adhesive	\$500
mosaic materials	\$3,000

Fabrication

(books/shelves/cable...etc)	\$10,000
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Studio fees

(tools...etc)	\$1,000
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Travel

\$660

Artists fees (350+hours)

\$15,000

Installation

\$2,000

Incidentals

\$1,840

Total budget

\$35,000